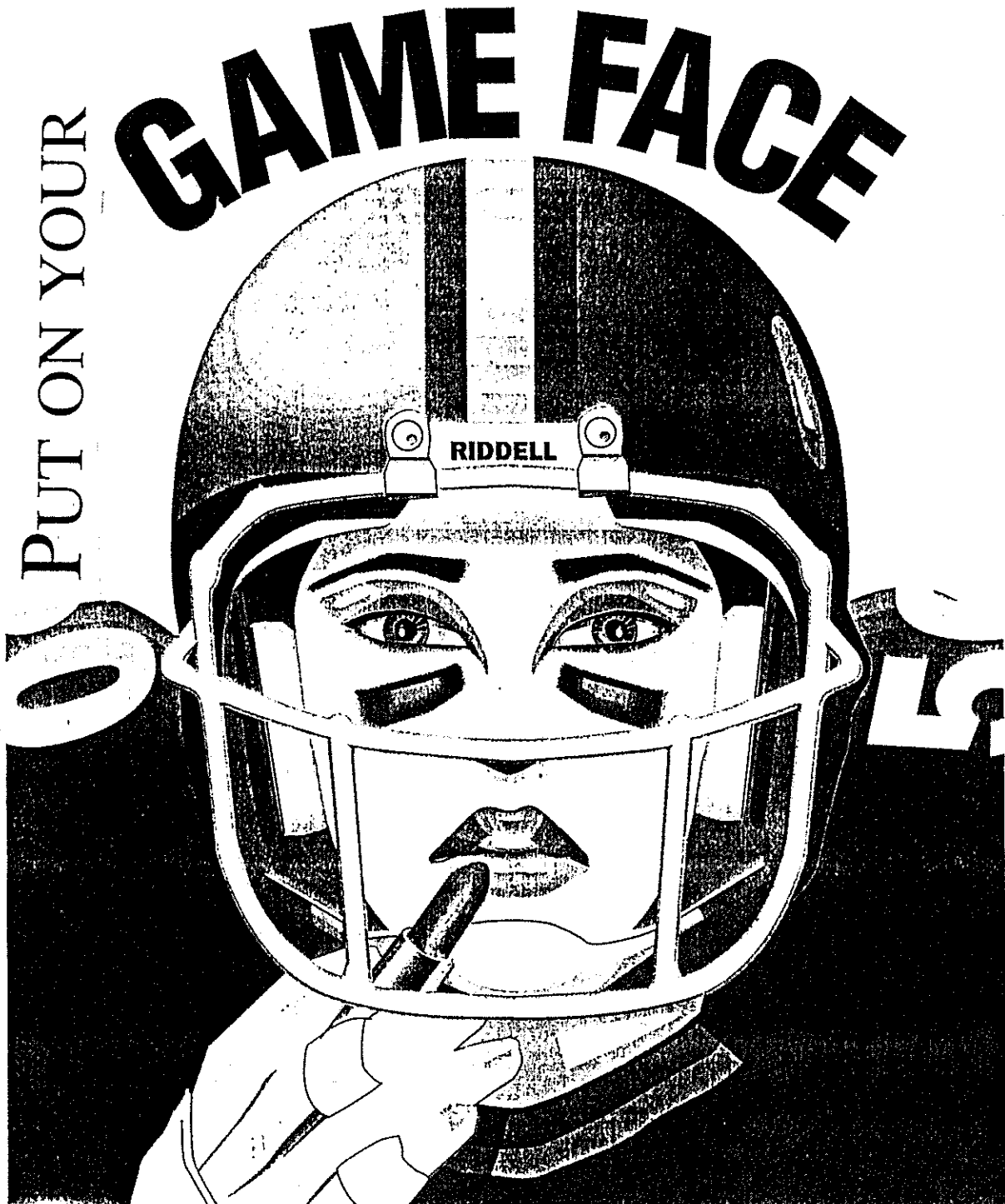


The
Crystal
CHRONICLE

Vol.2 No.8

Columbus, Ohio

November 1991



Tom Mattia / Dymch

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Powder Puffs of Orange County
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CROSS-TALK
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DREAMIN
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April 29 - May 3, 1992

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The Crystal Club is a non-profit support group for TV, TS, TG, FI, and others who assume a complete trans-gendered identity. Spouses and significant others are welcome and are encouraged to participate. Both Male-to-Female and Female-to-Male are welcome. Also, members from related

organizations, helping professionals, and approved guests are welcome when cleared through a Crystal Club elected officer.

Meetings are the fourth Saturday evening of each month unless a special event is scheduled that takes the place of the regular scheduled meeting. The location of the meeting or event(s) are only released to members or others with the approval of an officer.

New prospective members must be screened by the Member Representative or another delegated repetitive of the Crystal Club. We do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, race, creed, or age of the members and attendees. We do, however, require that all attendees behave like ladies or gentlemen at all times. We are not a dating service or a therapy group. We require that all attendees come completely dressed as a Male or a Female. An adjacent changing room should be available at the meeting site.

The Crystal Club membership fee is \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a couple (member and a significant other/spouse). The start of a new membership is pro-rated in coordination with the Crystal Club fiscal year end of 30 June, in quarter increments (4 months) to the nearest \$5, in advance. Additional consecutive years consist of the standard membership fee, in advance. Meeting fees are: \$15 for a single member, \$20 for a member couple and \$20 for a single non-member, \$25 for a non-member couple.

We will exchange newsletters with any other similar group. Feel free to include a disk version in ASCII or WP51 format if possible either on 5.25 or 3.5 floppy. Send all correspondence to:

The Crystal Club
 P.O. Box 287
 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-0287
 (614) 237-4321

President's Column

by Rochelle

Ladies! We will not be having a meeting on the 23rd of November. Instead there will be a second "Ladies night out." Call the club line (614) 237-4321 for time and place. The November board meeting will be on the 21st at the same place and time.

Remember all reservations for the Christmas Party must be turned in with fee by the 22nd of Nov. so that we can tell the caterer how many will be in attendance. Also we will be honoring 7 of our sisters that night. Please be there to give your support and thanks to these ladies for the great work that they've done. We owe them at least that much.

We need all those that are willing to run for an office on the board, to turn their names in by the January 25th meeting so that the ballots can be printed up. Elections will held at the February meeting. The offices and those that are running to date.

- President:** *Eden; Adrienne*
- Vice Pres:** *Eden*
- Treasure:**
- Secretary:** *Marilyn*
- Event coordinator:**
- Meeting coordinators:** *Kelly & Diana*
- Public relation rep.:**
- Significant other rep.:**
- Newsletter editor:**

These offices need to be filled. As you can see only 5 people are running for 4 offices. We'd like to have at least two people per office. I will not be running for any office this year at all. I wish all the new officers good luck and let them know I'll always be there if they need help. Will you be one of these few people?

Love, Rochelle

Editor's Edict

by Lana Morris

As you've probably noticed, the *Chronicle* has taken a new look once again. After many hours of working with *WordPerfect* and experimenting with different types of fonts and formats, I finally came up with just the right setup for my printer. Then out of the blue I stumbled upon the use of a laserjet printer! (Thanks to the graciousness of *Jennifer G.*) I think the polished and professional newlook is what the fine members of *The Crystal Club* deserve.

I have been criticized in the past for taking too long to get the newsletter out. "Why don't you just send out one page or whatever, if you don't have time for the whole thing?" This argument has some merit, however, as I try to explain, it's not simply the size of the newsletter that takes up my time. Every step in the process takes up some time, thought, an effort no matter how long the newsletter is to be. Infact, the length has a lesser bearing than any other factor.

Many people think that it is simply a matter of typing in some articles, pushing a button and out comes a finished product. Let me quickly explain some of the *hidden* steps involved. First articles must be collected from other members (this can be like pulling teeth!), newspapers, other newsletters, etc. They must be sorted and prioritized. Next they must be edited and typed up. We haven't even gotten to the layout yet. Everything must be arranged and rearranged several times to get everything to fit together and make room for ads, comics, and pictures. Finally, a finished, photo-ready, copy must be produced for the copiers. This last minute fine tuning can easily take up a whole afternoon.

Don't relax yet, we're only halfway there folks. We still have to deliver our copy to the printer. For me this involves

a trip downtown. I could find one closer, but remember, the nature of our club. I, for one, am not comfortable walking up to complete strangers and handing them pages of material on cross-dressing and transgenderism (assuming they at least scan the material). Not that I'm ashamed, I've gotten over that -- thanks, in part, to our club. But we need to be realistic, It's not wise to go around town divulging the fact that you are a crossdresser. So I try to go to the same print shop every time, besides Chris at the *Ink Well* has been very kind and has given us excellent pricing.

After a second visit to the printers the newsletters must be stuffed into envelopes and addressed. Ah!, mailing labels... I almost forgot, I need mailing labels to be printed. Who's keeping an up-to-date mailing list? I haven't had time to worry about that, I've been too busy with all this other stuff. I need them fast, so the newsletter won't be delayed. A phone call to Jennifer G. usually proves fruitful, she can print them for me, but I must make arrangements to get them from her. Ok, now we're ready to send them off. Oops, the post office won't deliver letters without the correct postage on them. Damn.. I'm all out of stamps. We'll have to get some before we finally drop the newsletters in a mailbox.

There, that wasn't so bad was it? Remember, all this must be done when friends, family, and neighbors aren't around, unless of course, you're completely out of the closet. We still need to prepare some disk versions for exchange with some of the other clubs. That can wait couple of day's 'till after I fix the car, do the wash, clean the house, pay some bills, etc...

Please don't misunderstand me. I have always enjoyed producing the newsletter for our club. I am just frustrated over how difficult it is to get it out in a timely manner. My purpose is not to complain, rather it is to point out the need for more of a newspaper staff. The editor should not have to be reporter, typesetter, ad

salesperson, layout designer, and mailboy.

I suppose I could just *whip-out* a hasty one or two pager and hand that off to someone else to mail out, but that's just

not my style. Many people see the newsletter that may never attend a meeting or even meet any of our members. All they have to go by when sizeing-up our group is what they see here in the

newsletter. In a way the newsletter is an ambassador for us. I think it is important to project a positive and professional image. Not only to new and existing members, but to the rest of the world.

Get Set to Tell Electrologists So Long

Classification for hair removers is about to be phased out

by Lee Leonard
Columbus Dispatch
Statehouse Reporter

Electrologists are going the way of the dinosaur in Ohio.

Electrologists are professional specialists in body and facial hair removal with electronically charged needles.

The Ohio general assembly is on the verge of enacting legislation placing the state's 313 licensed electrologists back under the regulation of the state Medical Board, along with other cosmetic therapists.

The classification of electrologist is to be phased out in 15 months.

House Bill 322 cleared the senate yesterday (Oct. 30th), 30-1, and was

returned to the house for concurrence in changes. The House passed it unanimously in June.

Seven years ago, lawmakers, convinced of an impending boom in the electrology business, voted to reduce the training requirements and place the professional hair removers under the state Board of Cosmetology.

"The demand never showed up," said Patrick G. Keys, executive director of the cosmetology board. "I guess women just didn't want to get their hair tweaked out."

More than 60 percent of the electrologists are licensed cosmetic therapists anyway and they need the dual license only to practice in a beauty parlor, keys said.

Sen. Merle G. Kearns, R-Springfield, floor manager of the new legislation, said it will eliminate duplication and upgrade education requirements. The requirements

were lowered to 150 hours in 1984 to attract more people to become electrologists. The legislation calls for a return to 600 hours.

Keys said most of the 124 electrologists without a cosmetic therapy license have 600 hour of training or are well on their way to it.

Electrologists may continue practicing until Feb. 1, 1993. Then they must be licensed cosmetic therapists.

"We're real happy that we're all going to be on the same wavelength," said George Dunigan, representing the Ohio Cosmetic Therapy Association.

The bill also adds two members to the cosmetology board and allows it to regulate estheticians -- advanced skin care specialists who use body wraps and toning boards for clients.

Expert Urges More Discussion on Gender Bias Issue

By Mary Yost
Columbus Dispatch Statehouse Reporter

Last month's Senate hearings into sexual harassment charges against Clarence Thomas and the Florida rape trial of William Kennedy Smith could help Ohio women win more equitable divorce settlements, a national expert on sex discrimination said yesterday (Oct. 31st).

Lynn Hecht Schafran of New York City urged members of an Ohio task force on gender fairness to use public interest in the rape trial and Thomas' confirmation hearings for the U.S. Supreme Court to generate discussion on the more subtle issue of gender bias.

The task force, appointed jointly by the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio State Bar Association, held a daylong seminar at the bar association offices in Columbus to examine gender bias in the legal profession and talk about how to fight it.

Drawing the line between sexual harassment and sexual bias can be difficult, said Justice Alice Robie Resnick of the Ohio Supreme Court, a founder and co-chairwoman of the task force.

The problem with sexual bias in the courts is that it can result in lasting damage, without those who are inflicting the wounds even realizing what they are doing, Schafran said.

Gender bias can come in several forms, ranging from demeaning treatment of women lawyers to unfair judgements for their clients, he said.

Judges may not even realize they are showing their bias when they fail to recognize the contribution a woman has made to a marriage as homemaker.

"To say to a judge, 'You may be biased,' is telling them, 'you are not doing your job.' It is very difficult," she said.

Some states, such as California, require judges and lawyers to participate in education programs on gender fairness.

Resnick said she favors a more subtle approach, such as working the issue into required courses on ethics.

The task force is gathering data for a report, Schafran urges members not to wait until the report to begin trying to change attitudes.

Once people start examining the issue, they often are amazed to learn "we aren't where a lot of people thought we were," Schafran said.

For example, she said she heard that one of Ohio's oldest law firms recently named it's first female partner, and woman candidates for judge still get asked, "Who's going to take care of your children?"

"This is not information from yesteryear. I hear this all the time," Schafran said.



adherence to the dress customs of the time and of the particular job are all that is required.

Not that this came easily. Both employers and the workers themselves had to be wrenched away from the idea that ladies should always look as if they were appearing for social purposes. Some silly supervisors were demanding that their workers wear skirts for serious labor and were puzzled about why they were encumbered in doing the job. Other supervisors were showing up in frills for serious business and were puzzled about why they weren't treated seriously.

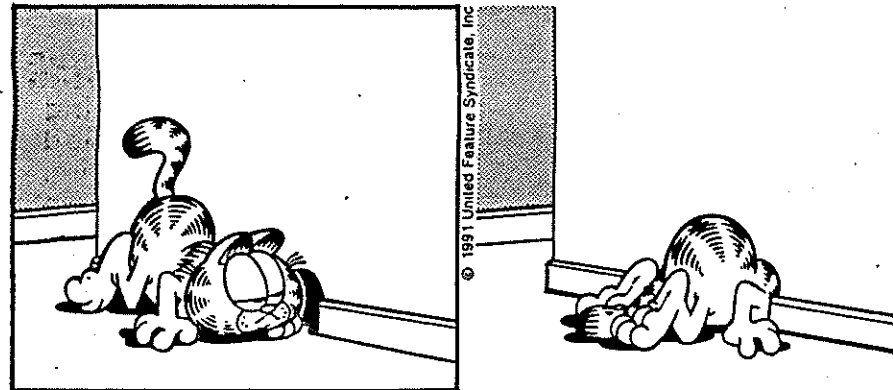
The difficulty is to find something that

is both professional and feminine, a stylistic concept that Miss Manners does not care to define beyond saying that she rejects the idea that, in order to look competent, ladies should have to dress like gentlemen.

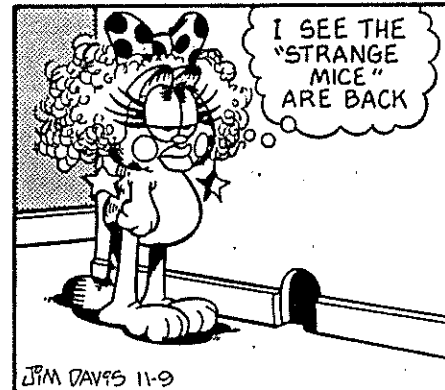
This is now what is being done with, for example, waitresses in expensive restaurants. One sees people of both genders working in formal restaurants. But the waitress generally wear masculine evening clothes, as if they had to made honorary males in order to qualify for the job.

For manual labor, male and female costumes are nearly identical; for

GARFIELD



Read Garfield in The Sunday Dispatch



Miss Manners

The Ladies' New Clothes Shouldn't be Gentleman's

United Feature Syndicate
by Judith Martin

It is high time Miss Manners ordered some new clothes. Oh, not for herself. Her fashion interest at the moment concerns the need to establish a standard of dress for ladies in official positions.

Not all ladies in the business world need to be distinguished by their dress, any more than all gentlemen do. A simple

dress-occasion jobs, a lady's suit or dress is obviously equivalent to gentleman's suit. The military and other organizations requiring uniforms have, on the whole, done a good job of adapting their uniforms, but their evening uniforms smack of the pseudo-masculine.

What still is needed is a female equivalent of formal clothing to be worn professionally. It should be practical and durable -- so that one can wear the same thing over and over again -- but not masculine.

Virginia's Secret Told

Group unveiled
by writer in drag
From USA Today

Richmond (Va.) *Times-Dispatch* readers recently got a shock when the newspaper ran a feature on a local group of male cross-dressers known as Virginia's Secret.

What they didn't know were the lengths reporter Mark Holmberg went to for his story.

Holmberg who stands almost 6-foot-9, interviewed Virginia's Secret members while wearing size 15 heels, queen-size panty hose, a camisole, a skirt, a jacket, a wig and makeup.

"Everyone was so busy laughing at me or congratulating me or wondering if I was a closet queen that they sort of forgot I was a reporter. My casual interviews automatically became intensely personal and revealing," Holmberg writes in an employee newsletter put out by Media General Inc., parent of the *Times-Dispatch*.

Newsroom reaction was divided, he says. "Women seemed to think it was a gutsy thing to do. Men thought it wasn't such a good idea."

Holmberg, 35, is reluctant to talk about the story. "I don't want to be known for putting on a woman's dress. I want to be known as a good reporter."

[...And we all know that good reporters don't ever wear dresses! -- ED.]

Stargate News

News from the telecommunications terminal of Mary Ann Harris

The following is lifted from a women's studies list. I'd like to hear comments from the guys' point of view concerning the advantages and the disadvantages of having boytoys and boygames thrust upon us, and/or the advantages/disadvantages of being deprived of being able to play girl... This topic is hardly bordering on non-academic!! Socialization of girls and boys is a major part of many women's studies and sociology classes. (also anthropology and psychology and some philosophy, I suppose!).

Toys and games are central to the learning and reinforcement of sex-roles. Appropriate and non-appropriate behaviors are learned more quickly through toys, games, and sports that almost any other factor. There is a large body of research on toy/games/sports and socialization that can be used in the presentation of materials on socialization. Students relate very quickly to this approach to gender role socialization because many of the men remember being punished or at least scolded for wanting to/or playing with 'girl' toys - especially dolls. Women remember the disappointment of not getting the baseball and glove - but instead another doll, or being unable to play with her brother's truck or racing car track (that was my biggie!!). Students with children can also easily relate to this topic by observing their children's wants and what kids will do with siblings that they would not be caught doing in public!

Boy toys and girl toys contribute to a number of factors that can be addressed. Boy toys are generally more social, require more physical space and motor ability. Boy games generally have more 'roles to play or parts' that keep boredom away. They also have a high skill ceiling - meaning that the game can be played and the players improve their skills - sometimes for years. Girl toys are generally more solitary, require turn-taking as opposed to parallel or head-to-head competition, require little space or motor ability. Girl games have a low skill ceiling and it is easy to get bored quickly playing girl games/toys. Also, when boys play boy games, because they require more people, little boys learn to develop skills quickly because they are forced to 'play up' to the bigger boys' skill level or be left behind. Girls have a tendency to 'play down' to younger children thus limiting their own skill development (except possibly in child-care activities) and the development of the younger children.

Solving disputes between children takes a different tack to for boys and girls. This relates directly to the toys and games they play. Boys fight and argue about rules and calls, but generally 'do it over' after a while so the game can continue. Girls fight - and the game breaks up. generally this is because girl games get boring quickly - there is no excitement - so there is little need or desire to fight for the continuation of the game.

When I write of girl toys/games or boy toys/games, I am not necessarily suggesting that these are exclusively what boys and girls do. These are just some of the characteristics of 'gender appropriate' toys/games. The toy manufacturers and the advertisers develop and push toys specifically for boys and for girls. They understand peer pressure and parental bias! Consumer action has worked in the past to get some changes. For a while war toys were less available and certainly less lethal! But since the gulf war was so popular - war toys are back and probably will be for some time to come.

Those of us who teach gender should look very carefully at the research on toys and games. This is a very important and academic topic. It goes along well with studies on popular culture, media studies, sport sociology, etc. as well. This is a good time of the year to discuss this in classes. I can guarantee the discussions will be lively and the biases regarding sex-roles and appropriate behaviors will be clearly evident to almost everyone!!

Dayna Daniels
Co-ordinator: Women's Studies
University of Lethbridge
DANIELS@HG.ULETH.CA

Hormone Cycles Affect Men's Test Results

Source: *Los Angeles Times* (11/14/91)
Original article by Thomas H. Maugh II

When psychologist Doreen Kimura reported three years ago that women's performances on standardized tests vary with their hormonal cycles, she was roundly criticized for her "sexist" attitude. Critics charged that her results reinforced the idea that women could not handle certain jobs because they were prey to their emotions once a month.

Now, however, Kimura has closed the loop by finding the same sorts of hormonal variations in men's performances on the tests, suggesting that they, too, are captives of hormones.

Researchers have long recognized that women perform better than men on some types of standardized tests, such as those that measure muscular coordination and verbal facility. Men score better than women on certain other types of tests, including those involving spatial reasoning, such as the ability to imagine the entire shape of a three-dimensional object when presented with only one view.

Kimura, from the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada, created a stir in 1988 when she reported that women's results on these tests varied

throughout the month. She found, for example, that their scores on tests of muscular coordination and verbal facility increased by as much as 10% during the times of the month when their blood levels of the female hormone estrogen were high.

Similarly, their scores on tests of spatial reasoning dropped when blood levels of the male hormone testosterone were reduced. (Women have small amounts of male hormones in their blood and men have small levels of female hormones.) Her studies of young men had also shown a curious link between testosterone levels and spatial reasoning ability. While females with above-normal testosterone levels score higher than other females on spatial reasoning tests, males with below-normal levels of the hormone also score higher than other males.

"It thus seems that there is an optimum testosterone level that is intermediate between the levels in males and females," she said in a telephone interview. To test that theory, she studied changes in test scores related to hormone levels in men.

Previous research has shown that men have a yearly hormone cycle. Testosterone levels are, ironically, lowest in the spring "when youn mens' fancies turn to thoughts of love," Kimura said, and highest in the fall. Kimura and her colleagues administered three different groups of tests to 36 males and 36 females in March, and the same tests to another group in October.

The tests included those on which women normally do better, those on which men normally do better and a third group of gender-neutral tests.

She found that the women performed at the same level on all tests in the spring and the fall and that the men performed at the same level on the gender-neutral tests. But the men performed as much as 25% worse on the tests of spatial reasoning in the fall, when their testosterone levels were highest, and

somewhat better on the tests of verbal facility.

Locker Room Policies Biased Against Men

Remember last year when there was all of that fuss about women reporters in locker rooms? Some members of the New England Patriots made sexual comments toward one reporter; then Cincinnati Bengals coach Sam Wyche banned all women reporters from the locker rooms one game, only to retreat after a heavy fine from the NFL.

I wasn't the only one to wonder what would have happened if it were male reporters in women's locker rooms instead of the reverse. Would such a thing be tolerated?

Well, no. What you'll find is that women's teams and women's sports do not let reporters into the locker rooms, while men's teams and men's sports do.

For instance: Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, the Professional Golfer's Association and the Major Soccer League all have locker rooms open to male and female reporters.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (for men) and the Women's Tennis Association both ban reporters from locker rooms.

The Ladies professional Golfers Association tour bans all reporters from locker rooms.

The U.S. Tennis Association allows reporters in both men's and women's locker rooms, although men rarely venture into the women's locker room.

The U.S. Golf Association allows reporters to go into the men's locker rooms but bans them from the women's locker rooms.

Catherine Commins Would Be Pleased

Source: New Times (11/21/91)

Authorities at London's Central Criminal Court said that three men who had been arrested for raping Sandra Harris, 25, were falsely accused. Harris admitted

She is a lesbian who had sexual intercourse with a man because she wanted to have a baby, then fabricated the rape story because she could not face her lover.

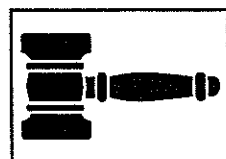
Three Boys Wearing Earrings Suspended by Alabama School

SALEM, Ala. (UPI) -- The rural Alabama high school's administrators gave the boys a choice: either the earrings or they must go. Three boys went.

The earring-bedecked youths were suspended from West Limestone High School after the taunts and questions of other students disrupted classes, the school principal said Wednesday. Principal Aubrey Privett said two boys were disciplined for violating a dress code and the third was punished for disrespect.

"I feel that young men should dress like young men and young ladies should dress like young ladies," Privett said. "They can come back Monday if they don't have earrings."

He said girls are allowed to wear earrings at school, but the boys disrupted classes because their jewelry drew disruptive reactions from other students.



Anime May Be For You

Dear People,

You've no doubt heard of RANMA 1/2 on this list before. It's the Japanese animated TV show wherein the title character turns into a girl whenever cold water is splashed on him, and a boy again when hot water is applied. I'm here to tell you where you can get subtitled VHS video- tapes of the first five episodes . . . for *cheap*. But first . . . I think that I should explain that this show does *not* glorify cross-dressing or transgenderism. The character that changes into a girl generally does it only under protest. This ability of his is both figuratively *and* literally understood as a curse. So, those of you who thought they would be interested in this item might want to re-think trying to track it down. It's somewhat like the movie SWITCH, with Ellen Barkin, in that being female and/or feminine is seen by the main character as undesirable.

That said, here is a rough description of the show: a boy and his father go to practice martial arts at a site considered very dangerous to fool around in. The tour guide tries to tell them about the dangers of the mystic pools at the site, but the two are impatient and start right in fighting. As the guide says, this site is made up of a few hundred pools where various people and animals died. Whoever falls into one of them will forevermore assume the form of the entity that died there whenever he, she, or it comes into contact with cold water: Ranma and his father are fighting atop wooden poles jutting over the surface of one of the pools and are too absorbed with what they're doing to heed the guide. Ranma succeeds in dismounting his dad, who falls into the pool, but he himself loses his balance and careens into the pool next to the one he was just straddling. His dad is transformed into a giant panda, and Ranma himself comes out a girl -- actually, a princess who died in that pond thousands of years ago.

From here, the story details how Ranma is matchmade to one of his father's friend's daughters. The thing is, this man and his three daughters are also martial artists. In short order, they find out about Ranma's peculiarity. The feistiest daughter, Akane, is selected to marry Ranma, but she hates boys. It turns out that every school day begins with her fighting 20-odd boys (all at once!) who want to date her, so she hates them all. Even worse, Ranma-chan (the female version of Ranma) has a nicer body than her, and gains the attention of the high school's best athlete/martial artist, who falls in love with Ranma. Ranma/Ranma-chan is an ace martial artist who can beat both this guy *and* Akane.

Much of the comedy in this series comes from its various love triangles. The original RANMA 1/2 comics that this show came from are written by Japan's top comic writer/artist, Rumiko Takahashi--who is a woman! The show is targeted at 4-to-8-year olds in Japan, so it's a little surprising to see breasts touched and exposed (although not at the same time), but hey, things are different over there what with communal bathing and all.

If any of this hasn't dissuaded you from seeing this stuff, you might want to get a copy of the first 5 episodes from Pat (it's Patricia, actual) Munson-Siter. Time for another warning: these tapes she has are third generation copies of *fan-subtitled* versions of the shows. There-fore, the visual quality is not what one would call optimum. The sub-titles are fully legible, and the picture quality of the animation is fairly good, but don't expect the quality of a store-bought or rented tape. On the other hand, this is the *only* way you will ever get to see translated versions of this show. They can be obtained as laser- disk imports (from Japan, naturally) *in Japanese*, but otherwise, you can only get them through Japanese animation fan clubs and tape traders like Pat. NOTE: Pat is a fan of Japanese animation, *not* cross-dressing or

transgenderism. Also, the original Japanese comics (called manga) can be obtained from:

[Call or Send SASE]

Nikaku Animart
615 N. 6th Street
San Jose, CA 95112

1-408-971-2822

One more thing before I give you Pat's address: I am (probably; if things go according to plan) starting a Japanese animation club at Brown University, and will show Pat's five subtitled RANMA 1/2 episodes (which she did not subtitle herself; she got them from another tape-trader) on one of the scheduled nights. Other schools also have anime (Japanese animation) clubs, and they might have RANMA episodes, too. Okay, that said, here's Pat's address:

Pat Munson-Siter
3256 Hall Street
Rapid City, SD 57702

Pat is moving in December and asks that anyone who wants to order anything should do so soon or at least send an SASP for her new address. The guidelines for getting anime from tapetraders is a bit baroque at first, but it's understandable considering that these people make copies for free. The catch is that you must buy the blank tape and pay for postage. If you send for only one tape, it should only cost you about \$9 to \$12. Write to Pat and enclose an SASE (Self-addressed, Stamped Envelope). She also has episodes 6-17, but they aren't subtitled.

What do I get out of all this? Nothing, except for the satisfaction of getting more people interested in anime, which is one of my favorite hobbies. See ya.

-- Steven Feldman

Boulton & Park Fourth Annual

"Texas 'T' Party"

FEBRUARY 28th - MARCH 1st
1992

For Information:
Texas 'T' Party

P.O.Box 17

Bulverde, TX 78163

or call Linda or Cynthia (512) 438-7604.



CROSS-TALK

The Transgendered
Community's
Newsletter

ONE YEAR (12 ISSUES)
\$24.00

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\$42.00

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Marilyn's Miscellaneous

by Marilyn

Here's a problem most of us have had at one time or another.

Dear M,

I've been crossdressing for sometime now, but I still find I'm really paranoid about going out in public and I feel especially vulnerable while trapped in my car driving to my support group meeting. Will you advise me on travel tips?

Signed, Claustrophobic Crossdresser
Confined in Car

Dear CCCC,

Most CD's fear being "read" while out, but most I know feel pretty secure locked securely in their vehicles. Some helpful hints will give you more confidence.

Keep in mind our Newsletter Editor's philosophy; "People see what they believe they see."

Keep in mind my philosophy: "People don't believe what they've seen, but by the time they do... you've turned the corner."

In keeping with this philosophy, always travel in the right hand lane so you can turn off quickly if there's a problem. You've probably noticed that you always get cut off at lights and are thus first in line.

Others in the four lanes on either side of you always pull up even with you and of course you believe that they're checking you out and laughing their tushes

off. Actually they are waiting, like you; to see when, if ever, the light will change, except that it's not quite the eternity for them that it is for you. So, always leave some space in front of you so you can drift ahead if anyone tries to pull up even with you.

Crossdressing is not illegal (yet), nevertheless police cruisers always appear out of nowhere when you're out dressed. This may make you nervous to the point of doing something erratic and call attention to yourself. To learn to remain calm, go to a donut shop where cruisers are parked and drive around about fifty times. This type of operant conditioning will get you used to behaving calmly in traffic with police cars around and avoid drawing undue attention to yourself.

Half drunk teenage boys out cruising are the bane of CD's everywhere. They hoot, holler, scope out chics, and are generally obnoxious. (I know I was). You never know if they're hollering just because they're being the little cretins that they are, or at you because they think you're a female, or at you because they think you're a CD. You think they've read you. Keep in mind one fact. These little creeps are totally ignored by genetic females such that if you're even remotely passable and you give them the merest glance, their hormone levels rise and they automatically think you want to go steady (or worse).

You must force yourself to ignore them. If you are convinced that they are fixated on you and they are not going to bug off, get out your lipstick and make a sign. This assumes they can read. It should be discrete yet visible and say something appropriate like:

OBEY ME! \$250/hr.

Since most of them are rebellious and none of them can afford bubble gum, they

should scam. If not, since you are in the right hand lane, turn off. Since you can now drive calmly around police cruisers, find one, preferably with someone inside and drive slowly past. It's unlikely the mutants will follow. Also, be sure you've taken your sign down!

Sometimes we get letters so different from the norm that ready responses are not immediately available. Here's a toughie.

Dear M,

I'm a 47 year old female, happily married to the same man for 28 years. My husband (I'll call him Arnold) is a retired Green Beret whose main interests are hunting, fishing, Tai Kwon Do, and reading Field & Stream and Guns and Ammo. I've been nagging him for years to crossdress so that he can get in touch with his feminine side and be a more sensitive person. I've tried everything but he always tells me "Go to hell woman, I ain't no faggot!" What are my options?

Signed, Caring but Cowed Concubine
of Calloused Cro-magnon

Dear CCCCC-M,

There are many options in getting to hell, but very few in getting back. In lieu of that, here are some concepts to consider:

1. Consider trickery and deception. This is good for any relationship. Convince him to take up skeet shooting or some other sport he isn't doing. Convince him you want to do it too. You'll be doing something together and have something in common. You get good at it, then make a bet with him that if you beat him he has to crossdress.

This may take awhile but be

persistent! His ego won't permit him to refuse the bet, but his Green Beret honor will make him keep his word if he loses. Be careful though! Isn't the Green Beret motto something like "Death Before Dishonor"?

You'll have to convince him that it's an honor to dress like a woman. Maybe the motto is "Duty First." If that's it then you'll have to persuade him that it's his duty as a flag waving, patriotic red-blooded American male to crossdress. Schwartzkopf would agree.

2. Consider bribery. Also good for most relationships. Tell him he can have the M-79 grenade launcher he's been wanting if he'll comply with your wishes.

3. Consider compromise. This rarely works but it might for you. Promise him that the skirt you get for him will be in desert camouflage with matching web belt. Offer to embroider paratroop wings on his blouse.

4. Consider psychology. Say to him "A real man wouldn't be afraid to wear a dress." As a Green Beret, Arnie

was part of an elite force, exploit this as follows: "Only a few good men can crossdress: The Few, The Proud, The Brave!"

Appeal to his spirit of adventure. "Come on dear, let's travel to the danger zone" You'll have to be tough. He might come back with something like, "Shut up woman! The only danger zone is between your nose and chin!" Be prepared to use #5 below.

5. Consider reverse psychology. Say to him "That's okay honey, I know in my heart you're right. You can't help it that you wouldn't make a passable female. You just don't have the right stuff." Be advised that these last two probably won't work because Cro-Magnons usually have smaller less efficient brains, thus they are less susceptible to modern psychological techniques as compared to normal people. Good Luck! Let us know what happens. Send photos.

P.S. Sorry for all the crappy answers but we're just not used to hearing from

women who actually want their husbands to start crossdressing.

Here's one from some thoughtful soul.

Dear M,

Is there such a thing as a crossdresser's creed? I'd just like to have some little homily to hang onto in case I ever lose confidence or something. Besides, with all the crossdressers out there, some comforting slogan must exist.

Signed, Contemporary Crossdresser
Contemplating Creed

Dear CCCC,

Remember the immortal (or close to it) words of a famous genetic female... Margaret Thatcher. She discussed being a lady and said, "If you have to tell someone you are, then you aren't!"

Hope this will be of help. Bye to all for now and see you at the Christmas Party! Until then, have fun and above all, be careful!!

Dear Sisters:

Just recently I was talking with another club member about things that have been going on at the monthly meetings. My life is very busy in the summer months and I can not be at the meetings. But I still support the group! I was informed that some of the girl's were upset with the group because of the pressure to join the games being played at the meetings. I can understand their feelings. I come to the meetings to socialize with the great group of friends that I have made here at the *Crystal Club*. Some of these girls I can call at home, for others I must be very discreet. The only way that I can meet and talk with them is at our meetings. I also try to talk with any new members that come to the meetings. I can still remember how

frightened I was when I knocked on the door and took that "Big" step in to the room. Thank God that Lana was there, she came over and started talking to me. She made me feel very at ease and welcome. I'm not trying to put down anyone, I just think the different games are great. But we must still remember that we are a support group. Different people come to our group for a variety of support needs. Most of us are at different stages with our cross-dressing. Some of the ladies have even had cosmetic surgery. With all of this knowledge, we can support and help each other to grow. Sometimes we may need to put our feelings and fun to the side and think of others. Without this group, many people would not have anywhere to turn! Like many others I enjoy the bar scenes, but all of us have needed a friend to turn to for help. This is what the

Crystal Club is all about! People don't need to be pressured about coming out of the closet either. Discretion is the main factor of our group.

Sincerely Kristine

Dear Kristine,

Thank you for writing to us. We believe that each member of the club has a right to express their opinions. Were happy that many good friendships have developed throughout the years in the club. We hope you were present at the meetings when we played the games like charades and were able to form an opinion for yourself as we value everyone's. It's often easy for members to sit off in the corner or feel left out of the main stream of the

meeting mainly by choice. These member often decide not to return. Although finding the right set of events to encourage interaction with other members is sometimes difficult, we still continue to try to get members involved in the meetings by socializing with the other members. We feel that in order to have a successful club, the members need the support of interacting with each other and we try to create the situations to encourage this. Thank you again for writing and we hope you'll better understand the purpose of the events.

Secretary Speaks by Adrianne

In the two years since the formation of the Crystal Club, hardly a week goes by where a daytime talk show, or night time television series, doesn't present or discuss some aspect of crossdressing. We enjoy having the spotlight on our cause, but unfortunately, we are most often presented in a "sensational" manner, and treated as being rather bizarre or worse! The idea behind the creation of the Crystal Club was to provide an environment where we could express (dress) ourselves and have the support of other people with the same proclivity. The other major function of the club is to educate ourselves and the general public about crossdressing, who we are and what we are.

"Why?" is the question that is asked first, but it has no importance to those of us that have reached self acceptance and like who we are. We would still like to know "why" but only in a scientific curiosity, we exist, and have no desire to be cured if such a thing were possible.

We are your neighbor, your mechanic, your baseball coach; I am a father, a brother, a husband; we go to church, PTA meetings, concerts and movies. The question is, do you know me when you see me? I have told you who and what

I am, and some people are offended or even threatened by me being a crossdresser, but most of the time when I am out in public presenting the opposite gender, no one knows! Reaching this point in my life has not been easy, I have spent 30 of my 40 years trying to make peace with myself. Finding the Crystal Club provided me with an avenue to openly express myself, dress, in front of other people with the same gender identity problems. I have had only a couple friends throughout my life, mostly just acquaintances. Now I several friends who know more about me than my immediate family, and accept me as I am. Also for the first time in my life I have a social life; club meetings every month, I go shopping at the malls, to the theater with my wife, out to restaurants, all as "she." I do not do this to show-off, because by becoming feminine, I also take on all the other risks that a woman lives with - I can not walk alone at night on city streets, I get followed in the car, I receive cat-calls.

This requires a substantial amount of courage, as most of have spent many years of our lives trying to deny who we are. Most of us have surprisingly similar life experiences which we have had to

overcome to be able to like ourselves and feel whole. Personally I have had emotional problems, low self esteem, ulcers, a broken marriage; while others have had years of counselling, terminated employment and physical and mental abuse. Many people reading this may think, "what a bunch of sissy wimps." They're right! We are sensitive and caring, and have a very pronounced feminine part of our being. We enjoy feeling pretty outside and beautiful inside, and our crossdressing is the major avenue to get in touch with our feelings and become our true self.

The gender community is mostly shielded from the general public, not many of us openly espouse what we are, and we can not go out and recruit members like the Lions club. Those people still hiding in their clothes closet, must find their way to us. We are attempting to get more publicity and increasing our educational efforts. We want central Ohio to know that the Crystal Club exists, and we are striving to promote our message that we are not handicapped, perverted nor mentally disturbed; we are unique individuals who only request tolerance of our difference and acceptance of our right to self expression.

Calendar of Events (Jan 92)

12/07	Crystal Club	Christmas Party	Columbus
12/14	IXE	Christmas Party	Indianapolis
1/10	Crystal Club	Ladies Night Out	Columbus
1/16	Crystal Club	Board Meeting	Columbus
1/16	Crossport	Meeting	Cincinnati
1/17	Trans-Wv.	Meeting	Huntington Wv.
1/18	Paradise	Meeting	Lakewood Oh.
1/25	Crystal Club	Meeting	Columbus
2/28	Boulton&Park	Texas "T" Party	Bulverde, TX
4/29	Cross-talk	California Dreamin	Anahein, CA

Vocal Techniques for Crossdressers

By Sharon Ann Stuart
courtesy GIC Newsletter

Your six feet, six inches tall, weigh 280 pounds and play middle linebacker for the Chicago Bears. When you talk your voice sounds like it's coming from the bottom of Carlsbad Caverns. Can you learn to speak like a woman well enough to fool Mike Ditka?

Probably not, according to Wendy Parker, who presented a popular seminar in the House of Commons room entitled "Speaking In a More Feminine Manner." However, Parker does feel "confident that any male crossdresser or transsexual who desires to develop a more feminine speaking voice can do so using proven techniques and without the controversial surgery to shorten the vocal cords."

Parker, a noted musician, advised her listeners to speak with the musical scale in mind. "There is a tendency for us (men) to try raising our voices a full octave when we want to imitate women's speech. But that's too much and it puts our voices into the falsetto which sounds phoney," Parker stated. Continuing, Parker advised using a range of three tones up and three tones down the scale to create the musical quality which is common in feminine vocalization.

Other hints for better feminine speech included ending sentences with a raised inflection; using hyperbole in speech (That's a lovely jacket you have on); using more expressive gestures while keeping the limbs close in; leaning forward and establishing good eye contact; talking about subjects of feminine interest, e.g. relationships, clothing, children, cooking; talking in the mask, i.e. "talking forward in the mouth and using the lips rather than letting the sound come from deep in the chest."

Parker advises reading "You Just

Don't Understand" by Deborah Tannen (Morrow Press, New York, 1989) for those who wish to pursue feminine vocalization in greater detail. Parker's best advice to those who would speak more femininely was to adopt a female role model and study her vocal habits. This can be done with the aid of audio recordings, or preferably video recordings, as feminine speech encompasses facial expressions as well as sound. Parker said her feminine voice model was Sigourney Weaver. Listeners agreed that Parker had, indeed, succeeded admirably in mimicking her vocal idol. Now if she can only learn to emulate Weaver's body.

News from the Electronic Exchange

via Cross-Talk

Man held in alleged attack on CD prostitutes

(West Hollywood, CA) -- A Santa Ana man who allegedly fired several shots at two crossdressed prostitutes in the early hours of September 29 was being held without bail on suspicion of attempted murder and civil rights charges, authorities said.

The attack took place about 3:40 a.m. on Santa Monica Boulevard, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Irma Becerra. Ruben Velasquez, 29, approached the men -- one of whom was wearing an orange dress, a denim jacket and high heels -- and allegedly uttered the threatening epithet "I'm going to kill you queens," just before firing three or four times at them, Becerra said.

A deputy from the sheriff's canine unit who was patrolling nearby heard the shots, saw a muzzle flash and spotted Velasquez running to a station wagon, Becerra said. The deputy pursued

Velasquez and found a .25-caliber semi-automatic pistol inside his car after pulling him over.

Velasquez was booked on suspicion of attempted murder and interfering with a person's civil rights. Anti-gay statements Velasquez allegedly made to arresting deputies led to his being booked on the civil rights charge.

Sheriff's Sgt. Tony Hollins said both victims attack are known gay hustlers. "They are actual male prostitutes, dressed in female attire," he said. However, he said neither has been arrested by the West Hollywood station's Special Problems Unit, which makes arrests for prostitution in the city.

The men, both Los Angeles residents, ran west along Santa Monica and either "fell or dove for cover" as the shots rang out, Becerra said. Their only injuries were cuts on their knees.
[Los Angeles "Times"]

TS tied to crime scene in Mexico murder

(Phoenix, AZ) -- An assistant Arizona attorney general says "physical evidence" has been obtained placing a transsexual suspect at the scene of the murder of a Gilbert, Arizona woman February 23. Mitchell said that Yesenia Gonzalez Patino, 35, who was known as Alfredo Patino before he underwent a sex-change operation in Colorado 10 years ago, had a "strong romantic relationship" with Dan Willoughby, the victim's husband. Willoughby has been questioned but not charged with any crime.

Patricia Willoughby, 42, was unconscious when she was found by her husband at their rented condominium in Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Sonora, according to law-enforcement authorities there. The victim, who had been stabbed several times in the face and neck, died later at a local hospital.

While refusing to elaborate on the evidence, Mitchell said that located Patino is a key to the case. She is believed to be in Arizona or Mexico and to have retained her female identity. "If we find Yesenia, it will be the end of a successful investigation and the beginning, we think, of a successful prosecution," Mitchell said. He said his office is involved because it appears there may have been a murder conspiracy that began in Arizona.

The victim's mother told reporters she has added \$5,000 to a \$1,000 reward fund that already has been offered through the Silent Witness program of the Phoenix Police Department for information leading to Patino's arrest. [*Arizona "Republic"*]

Sex-identity theorist Dr. Robert Stoller dies

Stoller, a leading psychoanalytic theorist on sex-identity problems and perversions, died September 6 in a traffic accident outside his home. He was 66.

Dr. Stoller was killed as he pulled out of his driveway and his car was struck by another car in Pacific Palisades. He died instantly from injuries in the crash.

Best known for his writings on perversions, sexual excitement and sex-identity problems such as transsexuality, Dr. Stoller's theories "shook some fundamental beliefs of the psychoanalytic establishment," said Dr. Ethel Person, a psychiatrist at Columbia University medical school.

Dr. Stoller set forth his theories in a series of influential books, including "Sex and Gender: On the Development of Masculinity and Femininity", published in 1968, and "Presentations of Gender", published in 1985.

Dr. Stoller was educated at Columbia University, received his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley and his medical degree in 1948

from the University of California at San Francisco. He joined the psychiatry department at U.C.L.A. in 1954.

He is survived by his wife, Sybil, who was in the car with him at the time of the accident but suffered only minor injuries, and by four sons. [*N.Y. "Times"*]

Preliminary program schedule set for 1992 IFGE Convention

(Houston, TX) -- A preliminary listing of programs has been announced for the 1992 International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) "Coming Together - Working Together" convention.

Seminars have been tentatively planned in the areas of leadership, education, business, as well as eight seminars oriented specifically toward newcomers to the gender community. A three-day program dealing entirely with transsexual issues has been scheduled, as well as a two-day program on female partners' issues and a two-day program run by mental and medical health professionals for other professionals. Specific details will be announced by IFGE as the convention date draws nearer.

The convention, co-hosted by Texas gender community organizations Gulf Coast Transgender Community, the Tau Chi and Delta Omega chapters of Tri-Ess, Boulton & Park Society, Heart of Texas Gender Alliance, and Women Associated with Crossdressers, will be held April 6 through 12. [*Kymerleigh Richards*]

Aegis announces formation of advisory board

(Atlanta, GA) -- The Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) has announced the formation

of an advisory board and a gender support group. The advis of researchers, service providers and transgendered persons, many of whom are nationally known. AEGIS has issued an open invitation to anyone interested in serving on the board.

The support group, open to all transgendered persons, meets monthly in the offices of a counselling professional in the Atlanta area. Issues of self-discovery, role exploration, and practical concerns will be addressed in the group, which will also feature guest speakers. AEGIS has also initiated a series of of public service advertisements addressing gender community consumer issues, including the dangers of extremely high dosages of hormones and the injection of liquid silicone into the human body. The advertisements are being distributed to service providers and gender organizations internationally. [*AEGIS press release*]

La Rey announces retirement as "universal ball" producer

(West Hollywood, CA) -- Empress LaRey, who for many years produced the annual "Universal Ball" female impersonator beauty pageant, has announced that she will be stepping down as producer after this year's event.

In an interview with "Cross-Talk", LaRey cited increased business responsibilities in other areas as the major reason for her decision. She says she will also step down as producer for the spring "Goddess" and "Miss Gay L.A." pageants after next year's events, although she will remain connected with the events as emcee for the foreseeable future.

The 1991 edition of the "Universal Ball", which was created by LaRey in 1969, will be held November 8 in its long-time home, the Mayflower Ballroom in the LAX area. [*Kymerleigh Richards*]

TS attorney funds writing competition on sexual identity

(Houston, TX) -- In order to encourage legal research as it relates to the issues of sexual identity, including the gender ~~identity~~ annual writing competition has been announced at the University of Houston Law Center. The student writing the best paper on topics relating to any area of the law dealing with sexual identity will receive a \$500 award from an endowment funded by transgendered attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye. Preference will be given in the final judging to papers dealing with transgender issues.

The law to be analyzed in the competition papers will include employment (hiring discrimination, on the job transition, wrongful discharge); family (change of name, pre-operative change of gender, amendment of birth certificate, passports, validity of marriage before and after surgery, child custody and visitation); housing (refusal to rent, wrongful eviction); insurance (naming beneficiaries, electrolysis, hormones, psychological analysis, surgery and hospitalization, refusal to insure life); military (security risk, forced discharge, benefits); criminal (mistreatment during arrest, segregation while in jail or prison, withholding of hormones); probate (validity of being named heir after transition begins, validity of bequest to legal spouse before surgery if death is after surgery) and health (ethics of greed in overtreatment, ethics of bias in undertreatment, malpractice, defining sex, gender, role and appearance).

Frye hopes to set a precedent with the competition for law school in other cities. "Until (these) issues are thoroughly explored in the legal arenas, the progress of the gender community will be at a snail's pace," she said. [*"The New Voice"*]

Amnesty International expands mandate on human rights

(London, England, U.K.) -- The Nobel Prize winning human rights organization Amnesty International has expanded its mandate to include human rights for lesbians and gays, including language that will also protect transgendered people who are perceived to be homosexual.

At its September meeting in Japan, the or conscience" people who have been arrested for lesbian and gay rights advocacy, those arrested simply because they are homosexual following raids on bars or other gathering places even though they have committed no other crime, and people perceived to be homosexual because of the way they dress.

Observers note that while the expanded mandate does not specifically include transgendered people, transsexuals and transvestites will enjoy "spill over" protection. They cite incidents in such places as Singapore, where police sweeps against homosexuals have also caught up transsexuals and transvestites. While including transgendered people in the mandate would have been preferable, they note, it would have been all but impossible to win consensus approval from all of the 44 national Amnesty sections which decide policy for the international organization.

Protection for jailed sexual minorities was first proposed in 1974, and has been regularly put forward by various European and North American sections since then, but strong opposition from Asian, African and South American sections had always resulted in the proposal's defeat. The compromise proposal approved in September contained "escape clause" language recognizing that some of the national sections have cultural backgrounds resulting in different views of homosexuality around the world, permitting nations to adhere to their own

cultural backgrounds. However, Derrick McGuinness, spokesman at Amnesty headquarters, said "Clearly we now recognize sexual orientation as a fundamental human right to which (we) must respond."

Amnesty is an international human rights watchdog group which encourages governments around the world to respect certain fundamental human rights and to free "prisoners of conscience" arrested for exercising those rights. The 44 national sections represent more than 8,000 local Amnesty chapters working in over 70 nations. [*"Renaissance News"*]

FDA questions safety data on breast implants

(Washington, DC) -- Although more than two million women in the United States have silicone breast implants, manufacturers have not produced data that prove their safety, Food and Drug Administration officials say.

The agency has told the four American manufacturers of the implants, in letters sent over the weekend of September 13, that unless further data is submitted regarding the implants' safety, the products might have to come off the market.

Officials reviewing data received in response to an F.D.A. request earlier this year involved two few women and too few side effects, and had been collected in too short a time. The agency gave the companies a January 6 deadline to either submit new results or convince the agency that the data submitted were sufficient.

The implants, virtually all of which contain silicone, were among the many medical devices permitted to remain on the market without proof of safety and effectiveness when new regulation on medical devices began in 1976. Manufacturers were not required to submit safety data on the implants until this year. Doctors who study the use of implants

have suggested that they can cause allergic reactions, painful muscle contractions, connective-tissue diseases or infections. While manufacturers concede that there may be side effects, they insist that an overwhelming majority of women who have them are happy with them. 150,000 women receive the implants annually in the United States, about 20 percent following breast surgery, and the remaining 80 percent because they are dissatisfied with the shape of their breasts.

Robert Rylee, chairman of the health care businesses section of Dow Corning, the nation's largest manufacturer of breast implants, thought the F.D.A.'s letter was unwarranted. However, Michael R. Mitchell, marketing manager for McGahn Medical Company, another implant manufacturer, said the company was not surprised and indicated a willingness to work with the agency to correct deficiencies in its safety data. Two other manufacturers, Bioplasty Inc. and the Mentor Corporation, did not make public comments. A fifth, Surgitek, was not among the companies permitted to make an initial application earlier this year, due to criticism over its polyurethane coated implant, which is suspected of causing cancer. [*New York "Times"*]

Authorities unable to prove true gender of con artist

(Denver, CO) -- Police who arrested a person they say is a con artist who preys on elderly and gullible people have thus far been unable to substantiate their suspect's claim of having had a sex change operation.

Baroness Maria Thyssen VonHexun, also known as John James Gonzales, was arrested on charges of bilking at least two people out of \$2,300. VonHexun/Gonzales claims to have married a German nobleman, but authorities continue to have difficulty in determining her/his gender.

Police have had no trouble reconstructing VonHexun/Gonzales' past legal difficulties, however. They say she/he was originally arrested on prostitution charges in 1974; in 1985, she/he claimed to be Maria Lexie Girtin VonHexun Onassis, relative of Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis. She was ruled incompetent to stand trial on charges relating to that swindle. [*"Renaissance News"*]

News Briefs...

Things are apparently toughening up in the glamorous world of teenage beauty pageants. On the first page of the standard contestant's contract for the Miss American Teen competition, along with the usual statements about residence and age, the contestant is asked to swear to the statement "I have always been a female". [*New York "Daily News"*]

You won't find "tits in a can" at your local supermarket, but you will find bra inserts packaged that way at selected fashion boutiques, thanks to Damin Industries, Inc. of Los Angeles. The "Stay-Put Backless, Strapless Push-Up Bra" features 100 percent hypoallergenic polyurethane inserts that are, according to fashion designer Alaïa, "virtually undetectable" underneath his body-hugging, stretch knit dresses. The inserts come with adhesive wings and include detailed pictorial instructions mapping out effective bra angles for low-cut necklines. [*"Vogue"*]

Protesters who drowned out Governor Pete Wilson's speech at Stanford University October 2 have vowed to keep fighting what they say are the religious forces behind the governor's veto of a gay rights bill. Activist Ken Bunch, who is a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence -- a group of drag queens in nun's habits -- said activists planned to disrupt church services around San Francisco as part of their dispute against

fundamentalist Christians who Bunch said "just sat on their hands". [*San Diego "Tribune"*]

A crossdressed prostitute has been acquitted of stabbing a john whom she said became angry when he discovered she wasn't really a woman. Angel Groll (Normanick M. Sulin), 24, admitted that she stabbed Robert Smith, 32, when he became violent following a revealing romantic interlude. Smith, who said he didn't find out Groll's actual gender until police told him as he was being treated for his wound, said Groll had robbed him. [*"Renaissance News"*]

Judges are beginning to question whether or not female bodybuilders have gone too far in their quest for a "perfect" body. While they admit that most women want merely to tone and shape their muscles, they also say that sometimes they ask themselves if they're judging a woman or a man during competitions. Mike Ashley of Phoenix, who was Mr. Universe 1986, says "for some of the women you see up there, if you cut their hair, you couldn't tell them apart from a man". [*Arizona "Republic"*]

Two well-known drag queens have announced their campaigns for political office: Joan Jett Blakk of Chicago, hoping to unseat George Bush, has been commenting on several important political issues, including hate crimes legislation, reproductive rights, and affirmative action. On the frivolous side, she says Diana Ross should have been nominated to the Supreme Court instead of Judge Clarence Thomas because "she's been a Supreme since 1964 and looks fabulous in a long black dress." Meanwhile, Sister Sadie Sadie the Rabbi Lady, director of the Ministry of Perpetual Indulgence (see above), is running for a seat on the Concord, CA city council under her real name. Sister Sadie said she's running a legitimate campaign to break ground in a notoriously fundamentalist stronghold. [*"Renaissance News"*]